

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With regard to the objection to claims 5-11 under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) as being in improper form, applicants have amended claims 4-7 to eliminate all improper multiple dependencies.

Regarding the rejection of claim 2 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite, applicants have amended claim 2 to provide all limitations with a proper antecedent basis and to correct what appears to be a translational error.

With regard the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,377,818 B2 to Irube et al., applicants respectfully submit that Irube et al. fails to teach every feature of the present invention. Irube et al. fails to teach rotating means for rotating the orientation of an image based on the detected orientation of the video telephone apparatus and independent of the orientation of a distant party video telephone apparatus, as claimed in amended claim 1.

The device of Irube et al. includes means for detecting the orientation of a local video telephone. This detected orientation of the video telephone is then compared with the orientation of a distant video telephone that is communicating with the local video telephone. If the comparison reveals that the orientation of the two video telephones is different, then a controller processes a display image to match the two video display directions. Thus, Irube et al. teaches rotating means for rotating the orientation of an image dependent on the orientation of the distant

party video telephone.

In contrast, the present invention includes rotating means for rotating an image based on the orientation of the local video telephone apparatus. An image signal generated by the image pick-up means is rotated by the rotating means such that the image is displayed in a generally upright orientation, regardless of the orientation of the distant party video telephone. In this manner, the rotated image is transmitted to be processed and displayed as desired by the distant party telephone. Similarly, a received image signal is rotated such that the image is displayed in a generally upright orientation regardless of the orientation of the local video telephone. Thus, the determination of whether to rotate the transmitted or received image signal is made independently of the orientation of the distant video telephone. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Irube et al., and is thus in condition for allowance.

With regard to the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Irube et al., applicants respectfully submit that Irube et al. fails to teach every feature of the present invention. Irube et al. fails to teach detector means for detecting the orientation of said video telephone apparatus having image pick-up direction detector means for detecting the vertical direction of said image pick-up means, as claimed in amended claim 2. According to Irube et al., the terminal main body and the image sensed by the image pick-up means always have the same orientation. Thus, when "the terminal main body 1 is in the landscape state, the display surface of the video LCD 14 and the video sensed by the camera unit 4 are both in the landscape state. On the other hand, when the terminal main body 1 is in the portrait state, the display surface of the video LCD 14 and the video sensed by the camera unit 4 are both in the

portrait state.” Col. 22, ln. 8-14. In contrast, the orientation of the image pick-up means can differ from the orientation of the video display apparatus according to the present invention. To account for these different orientations, amended claim 2 includes both detector means for detecting the orientation of the video telephone display apparatus and image pick-up direction detector means for detecting the vertical direction of said image pick-up means. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 is not anticipated by Irube et al., and is thus in a condition for allowance.

With regard to the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Irube et al., applicants respectfully submit that Irube et al. fails to teach every feature of the present invention. For reasons analogous to those above regarding the rejection of claim 2, Irube et al. fails to teach detector means for detecting the orientation of said video telephone apparatus having display direction detector means for detecting the vertical direction of said display means, as claimed in claim 3. An embodiment of the present invention includes a detachable display that can have an orientation different from that of the video telephone apparatus. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claim 3 is not anticipated by Irube et al. and is thus in a condition for allowance.

New claim 12 is added by this amendment. It includes “a rotating means for generating at least either said transmit picture signal by rotating the orientation of an image picked up by said image pick-up means, or an image for displaying by rotating the orientation of an image of said receive picture signal.” Thus, the present invention, as claimed in claim 12, includes rotating means that rotates images for creating images for transmitting to other terminals and/or images for displaying.


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In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 33483.

Respectfully submitted,

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